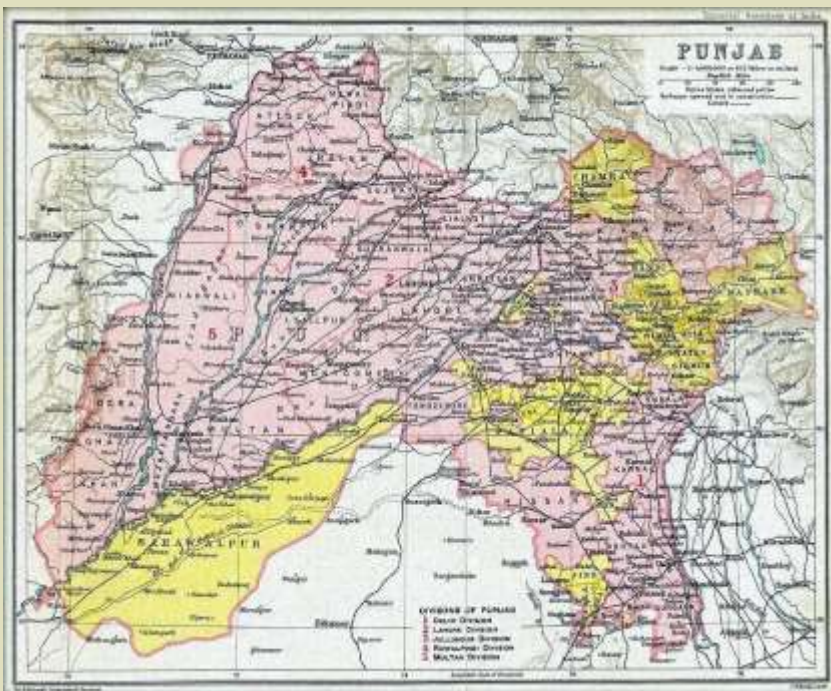


# Treaties of Amritsar

1809 & 1846





## Treaty of Amritsar 1809

The Treaty of Amritsar of 1809 was an agreement between the [British East India Company](#) and Maharaja [Ranjit Singh](#), the [Sikh](#) leader who founded the [Sikh empire](#). Among the outcomes was that Singh gained a carte blanche to further consolidate his territorial gains north of the [Sutlej river](#) at the expense both of other Sikh chiefs and their peers among the other dominant communities. It was a pact between Charles T. Metcalfe and Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

Ranjit Singh (1780-1839) was a Sikh warrior who had been establishing a kingdom in what was at that time northern India. He had established a capital at [Lahore](#) in 1799 when he defeated [Zaman Shah](#), an Afghan leader, and this emphasised his

status among the Sikhs. He proclaimed himself [maharajah](#) of the [Punjab](#) in 1801 and expanded his territories to such an extent that by 1808 he had control of an area bounded by [Gujarat](#), [Ludhiana](#) and [Multan](#). He had [Malwa](#), on the south side of the Sutlej river, as his next target but the Sikh chiefs in that area appealed to the British for protection. The protection was forthcoming and the British, who until recently had been occupied in [Hindustan](#) obtaining victory in the [Second Anglo-Maratha War](#), attempted to resolve the issue using diplomacy. This failed, Singh invaded Malwa in September 1808 and in February 1809 the British successfully attacked Singh's forces there. Realising his relative military weakness, Singh conceded with the Treaty of Amritsar. They promised that they will not interfere his affairs .

Although the terms of the treaty prevented Singh from any further territorial expansion south of the Sutlej, they also permitted him complete freedom of action to the north of it. This enabled him to extract [tribute](#) from less powerful chieftains,

including [Jats](#) and other Sikhs, and ultimately to gain control of areas such as [Peshawar](#) and [Kashmir](#). The unification of these territories, which was aided by him Westernising his armies, formed the Sikh empire that last until British subjugation in 1849.

### **Significance of Treaty of Amritsar:**

Kashmiris protesting the security lockdown and snapping of communications links in the state have on multiple occasions referred to 1846, the year in which, as a National Conference leader put it, "Kashmiris were sold, along with their land, water and sky over their heads".

It was in that year that the back-to-back Treaties of Lahore and Amritsar were signed. These treaties may be considered the starting point of the modern history of Kashmir under the Hindu Dogra rulers of Jammu.

The princely state of Jammu and Kashmir came into existence on March 16, 1846, the day the Treaty of Amritsar was signed between the British East India Company and the Dogra ruler Maharaja Gulab Singh.

The Treaty of Amritsar was a formalisation of the proposals of the Treaty of Lahore, signed to conclude the First Anglo-Sikh War of 1845-46 between the East India Company and the Sikh Empire.

### **Provision of treaty:**

For strategic and diplomatic reasons, Lord Minto concluded a treaty with Ranjit Singh at Amritsar in 1809 through Metcalf in order to check the Sikh advance beyond Sutlej.

By this treaty, the Sutlej was fixed as the boundry between the British East India Company and Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

## **Formation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir:**

The forces of Maharaja Ranjit Singh ran over the Kashmir Valley in 1819. The following year, Ranjit Singh made his Dogra general, Gulab Singh, the Raja of the State of Jammu.

Gulab Singh ventured out to expand the boundaries of his empire, conquering Ladakh in the 1830s and Baltistan (in Pakistan) in the 1840s. Gulab Singh also advanced towards Tibet in 1841, but could not progress.

At the same time that Gulab Singh was made the Raja of the State of Jammu, Maharaja Ranjit Singh gave to Dhyani Singh (Gulab Singh's brother), as a jagir, the district of Poonch (located in the Jammu and Kashmir).

Therefore, Poonch too became a separate state, different from Gulab Singh's Jammu. However, Dhyani Singh faced a series of rebellions from his majority Muslim subjects.

The Valley remained with the Sikhs until a little after Maharaja Ranjit Singh's death in 1839. After the defeat in the Anglo-Sikh War, the Sikh Empire had to cede Kashmir to the English East India Company through the Treaty of Lahore, which was signed on March 9, 1846.

Due to Gulab Singh's neutrality during the Anglo-Sikh War, the British granted him dominion over [Jammu](#) and Kashmir through a sale deed, which was formalised through the Treaty of Amritsar.

This treaty was signed a week after the Treaty of Lahore, on March 16, 1846. Gulab Singh 'bought' the state from the East India Company for a sum of Rs 75 lakh. The state of Jammu and Kashmir was thus formed, a Muslim-majority state with a Hindu Dogra ruler.

The last ruling Maharaja of the Dogra dynasty was Maharaja Hari Singh, the son of Raja Amar Singh Jamwal and the nephew of his predecessor in



the Dogra dynasty, Maharaja Pratap Singh. Hari Singh acceded to India in 1947.

Treaty of Amritsar, (April 25, 1809), pact concluded between Charles T. Metcalfe, representing the British East India Company, and Ranjit Singh, head of the Sikh kingdom of Punjab.

The treaty settled Indo-Sikh relations for a generation. The immediate occasion was the French threat to northwestern India, following Napoleon's Treaty of Tilsit with Russia (1807) and Ranjit's attempt to bring the Cis-Sutlej states under his control.

The British wanted a defensive treaty against the French and control of Punjab to the Sutlej River. Although this was not a defensive treaty, it did fix the frontier of lands controlled by Ranjit broadly along the line of the Sutlej River.

Metcalfe's mission gave Ranjit much respect for the company's disciplined troops as well as the

determination never to cross swords with the British troops. Ranjit's further conquests were to the west and north.

## Treaty of Amritsar 1846

The [#TreatyOfAmritsar](#), signed on March 16, 1846 : When [#Kashmir Was Sold](#) to Raja Gulab Singh of Jammu for Rs. 75 Lacs by East India Company...

Punjab Systematically Divided, Weakened Since the Ancient Times :

"Final receipt for the transfer of KASHMIR signed by the Board Of Administration.

The Hon'ble East India Company, having received from His Highness the Maharaja Gulab Singh, The sum of Rs.75,00,000/(Seventy Five Lakhs)in payment of the amount guaranteed by the Articles Of the Treaty between the Hon'ble Company and His Highness Dated 16th March,1846 ; This single acknowledgement of the receipt of the

whole amount is generated by the Board Of Administration for the affairs of The Punjab at the request of Dewan Of Jawalla Shahee in addition to the receipts already given to His Highness agents by receiving officers for the Installments received by them from time to time between the date of the Treaty and the date March 14,1850, The day on which the last Instalment was paid into the Lahore Treasury.

H.M.Lawrence,

John Lawrence,

C.G.Mansil.

It is strange that Maharaja Ranjit Singh at the time of his death (1839) left Rs.12 Crore in the Treasury and within Seven Years (1839-46). The Rich Treasury was empty and could not pay the Fine Of Rs.1.5 Crore imposed by the British, But Raja Gulab Singh had Rs.75,00,000/- to purchase the independence of the People Of Jammu and Kashmir, and to befool the people. This Money was received over a period of 4 years (1846-1850) in installments.

## **Treaty of Amritsar 1846**

Considered to be one of the rare documents that sold land and people, the Treaty of Amritsar was signed on March 16, 1846. This treaty transferred the ownership rights of everything between rivers Ravi and Indus from the Sikh empire to Gulab Singh, The Raja of Jammu . The deal was executed after the Sikhs were made to sell it to the East India Company following which it was sold to Gulab Singh....

March 16, 1846

The treaty between the British Government on the one part and Maharajah Gulab Singh of Jammu on the other concluded on the part of the British Government by Frederick Currie, Esq. and Brevet-Major Henry Montgomery Lawrence, acting under the orders of the Rt. Hon. Sir Henry Hardinge, G.C.B., one of her Britannic Majesty's most Honorable Privy Council, Governor-General of the possessions of the East India Company, to direct and control all the affairs in the East Indies and by Maharajah Gulab Singh in person – 1846.

### **Article 1**

The British Government transfers and makes over forever in independent possession to Maharajah Gulab Singh and the heirs male of his body all the hilly or mountainous country with its dependencies situated to the eastward of the River Indus and the westward of the River Ravi including

Chamba and excluding Lahul, being part of the territories ceded to the British Government by the Lahore State according to the provisions of Article IV of the Treaty of Lahore, dated 9th March 1846.

## **Article 2**

The eastern boundary of the tract transferred by the foregoing article to Maharajah Gulab Singh shall be laid down by the Commissioners appointed by the British Government and Maharajah Gulab Singh respectively for that purpose and shall be defined in a separate engagement after survey.

## **Article 3**

In consideration of the transfer made to him and his heirs by the provisions of the foregoing article Maharajah Gulab Singh will pay to the British Government the sum of seventy-five lakhs of rupees (Nanukshahee), fifty lakhs to be paid on or before the 1st October of the current year, A.D., 1846.

## **Article 4**



The limits of territories of Maharajah Gulab Singh shall not be at any time changed without concurrence of the British Government.

### **Article 5**

Maharajah Gulab Singh will refer to the arbitration of the British Government any disputes or question that may arise between himself and the Government of Lahore or any other neighboring State, and will abide by the decision of the British Government.

### **Article 6**

Maharajah Gulab Singh engages for himself and heirs to join, with the whole of his Military Forces, the British troops when employed within the hills or in the territories adjoining his possessions.

### **Article 7**

Maharajah Gulab Singh engages never to take to retain in his service any British subject nor

the subject of any European or American State without the consent of the British Government.

### **Article 8**

Maharajah Gulab Singh engages to respect in regard to the territory transferred to him, the provisions of Articles V, VI and VII of the separate Engagement between the British Government and the Lahore Durbar, dated 11th March, 1846.

### **Article 9**

The British Government will give its aid to Maharajah Gulab Singh in protecting his territories from external enemies.

### **Article 10**

Maharajah Gulab Singh acknowledges the supremacy of the British Government and will in token of such supremacy present annually to the British Government one horse, twelve shawl goats of approved breed (six male and six female) and three pairs of Cashmere shawls.

This Treaty of ten articles has been this day settled by Frederick Currie, Esq. and Brever-Major Henry Montgomery Lawrence, acting under directions of the Rt. Hon. Sir Henry Hardinge, Governor-General, on the part of the British Government and by Maharajah Gulab Singh in person, and the said Treaty has been this day ratified by the seal of the Rt. Hon. Sir Henry Hardinge, Governor-General.

(Done at Amritsar the sixteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, corresponding with the seventeenth day of Rubeel-ul-Awal (1262 Hijree).

(Signed) H. Hardinge (Seal)

(Signed) F. Currie

(Signed) H.M. Lawrence



Sir Henry Hardinge: The East India Company Governor-General who wrested the territory from Sikhs and then sold it to the Gulab Singh



**Maharaja Gulab Singh**  
a painting preserved by the British Library



Treaty document.  
Courtesy ; Internet

The Honble the East India Company  
 having received from H. H. Maharaja Gulab  
 Singh the sum of Rs. 75,00,000, Seven  
 Crores, in payment of the amount  
 guaranteed by the III Article of the Treaty  
 between the Honble Company and His Highness  
 dated Amritsar the 16<sup>th</sup> March 1846. This  
 single receipt for the sum so granted by the  
 Board of Administration for the Affairs of  
 the Punjab, at the request of His Highness  
 Jouda Sahib, in addition to the receipts  
 already given to His Highness Agents, by the  
 Revenue Officers, for the instalments  
 to them from time to time between the date  
 of the Treaty, and the 11<sup>th</sup> March 1850, the  
 day on which the last instalment was  
 paid into the Lahore Treasury -

C. J. J. J.  
 11, 1850

Facsimile of the original receipt of Rs. 75,00,000 (estimated to be equivalent to Rs. 50,00,000 in current coin) for the transfer of Kashmir by Lord Hardinge to Maharaja Gulab Singh.

Original Receipt Of Rs.75,00,000/ for which Jammu Kashmir was sold to the Dogra Chief and at the time of partition it was not returned the the Original Owners,THE SIKHS.





Nawab Sheik Imam-u-din, the Last Governor of Kashmir under the Sikh Rule. (1846)

He was the Governor during the First Anglo Sikh War having succeeded his Father to the title. Once Kashmir was passed over to Raja Gulab Singh under the Treaty of Amritsar, the Nawab showed some resistance in handing over the power to the Dogra Ruler But eventually he had to capitulate under great pressure from the Dogras and the British.

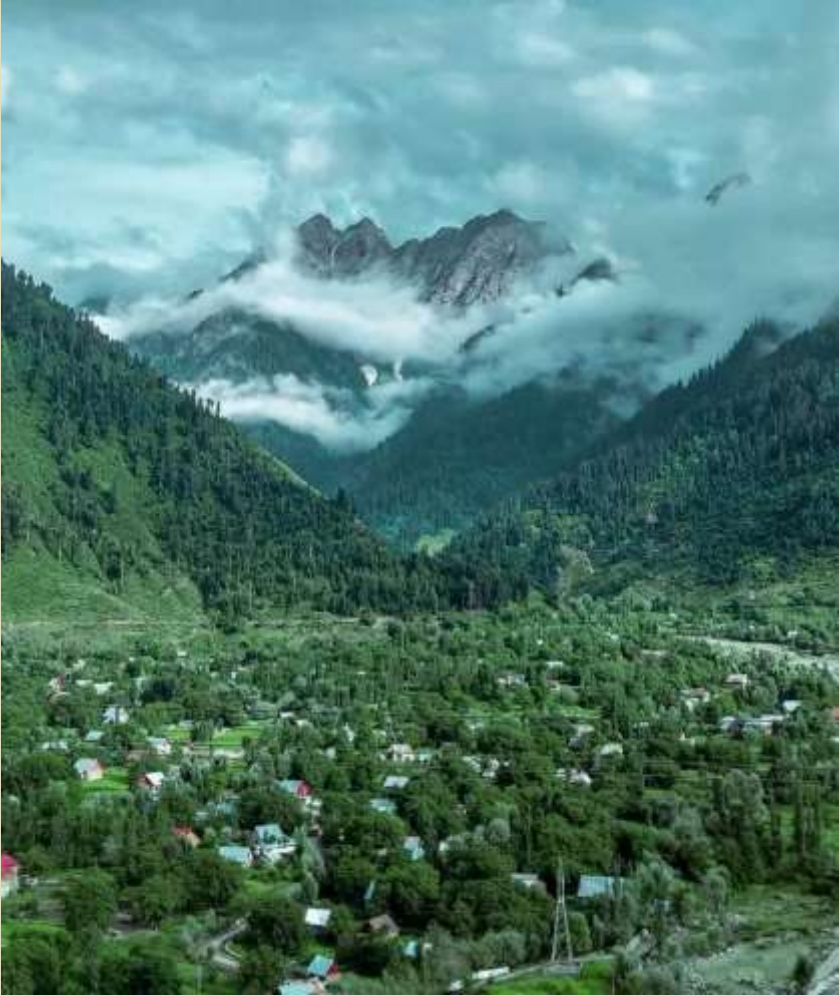




H. M. Lawrence



**Frederick Currie**



## Treaty of Amritsar (1846)

The Treaty of Amritsar, signed on 16 March 1846, formalised the arrangements in the [Treaty of Lahore](#) between the British East India Company and Gulab Singh Dogra after the [First Anglo-Sikh War](#). By Article 1 of the treaty, Gulab Singh acquired "all the hilly or mountainous country with its dependencies situated to the eastward of the River Indus and the westward of the River Ravi including Chamba and excluding Lahul, being part of the territories ceded to the British Government by the Lahore State according to the provisions of Article IV of the Treaty of Lahore, dated 9th March, 1846." Under Article 3, Gulab Singh was to pay 75 lakhs (7.5 million) of Nanak Shahi rupees (the ruling currency of the Sikh Empire) to the British Government, along with other annual tributes. The Treaty of Amritsar marked the beginning of Dogra rule in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The treaty was executed on 16 March 1846. It formalised the arrangements in the [Treaty of Lahore](#) between the [British East India Company](#) and Raja [Gulab Singh](#) of Jammu after the [First Anglo-Sikh War](#). By Article 1 of the treaty, Gulab Singh acquired "all the hilly or mountainous country with its dependencies situated to the eastward of the River Indus and the westward of the River Ravi including Chamba and excluding Lahul, being part of the territories ceded to the British Government by the Lahore State according to the provisions of Article IV of the Treaty of Lahore, dated 9th March, 1846." Under Article 3, Gulab Singh was to pay 75 lakhs (7.5 million) of Nanak Shahi rupees (the ruling currency of the [Sikh Empire](#)) to the British Government, along with other annual tributes. The Treaty of Amritsar marked the beginning of [Dogra](#) rule in [Kashmir](#).

During [First Anglo-Sikh War](#), Maharaja [Gulab Singh](#) Jamwal (Dogra) helped the British Empire

against the Sikhs. After the defeat of the Sikh Empire The [Treaty of Lahore](#) (9 March 1846) and the Treaty of Amritsar (1846) (16 March 1846) were signed. As part of the [Treaty of Lahore](#), signed between the 7 year old Maharaja [Duleep Singh](#) (Sikh) (4 September 1838 – 22 October 1893) and the British Empire on (9 March 1846), Jammu was taken over by the British Empire on paper. Article 12 of the [Treaty of Lahore](#) stated: "In consideration of the services rendered by Rajah Golab Sing of Jummo, to the Lahore State, towards procuring the restoration of the relations of amity between the Lahore and British Governments, the Maharajah hereby agrees to recognize the Independent sovereignty of Rajah Golab Sing in such territories and districts in the hills as may be made over to the said Rajah Golab Sing, by separate Agreement between himself and the British Government, with the dependencies thereof, which may have been in the Rajah's possession since the time of the late Maharajah Khurruck Sing, and the British Government, in consideration of the good conduct

of Rajah Golab Sing, also agrees to recognize his independence in such territories, and to admit him to the privileges of a separate Treaty with the British Government."

Then as part of the Treaty of Amritsar (1846) Maharaja [Gulab Singh](#) Jamwal agreed to serve the British Empire under Article 6: "Maharajah [Gulab Singh](#) engages for himself and heirs to join, with the whole of his Military Forces, the British troops when employed within the hills or in the territories adjoining his possessions." and in exchange under Article 9 "The British Government will give its aid to Maharajah [Gulab Singh](#) in protecting his territories from external enemies." After which the Dogras served the British Empire in the Indian Rebellion and in the various wars. Hence a large percentage of the Kashmiris fought in the First World War and in the Second World Wars, as part of the Jammu and Kashmir State Forces and directly with the Royal Navy, The British Army, the merchant navy and Gilgit Scouts as mentioned by Major William A. Brown in his book The Gilgit Rebellion 1947.

Hence 1.1 million Kashmiris now live in the UK. The high taxes to support these wars were resented by all the Kashmiris including the Hindus, Muslims and the Sikhs And combined with the tens of thousands of trained men, coming back from the Second World War generated a highly volatile situation in 1947.

Lacking the resources to occupy such a large region immediately after annexing portions of Punjab, the British got [Gulab Singh](#) pay 75 thousand Nanakshahee Rupees for the war-indemnity. The angry courtiers of Lahore (particularly the baptized Sikh, Lal Singh) then incited the governor of Kashmir to rebel against [Gulab Singh](#), but this rebellion was defeated, thanks in great part to the action of [Herbert Edwardes](#), Assistant Resident at Lahore. The Kashmiris also rebelled throughout Jammu and Kashmir.

To pay for this, from the very start the Kashmiris were heavily taxed and complained of being sold into slavery and extensive literature was



written by the British writers regarding these treaties. The Slavery Abolition Act 1833 (3 & 4 Will. IV c. 73) abolished slavery throughout the British Empire. The Slavery Abolition Act 1833 (3 & 4 Will. IV c. 73) came into force before the Treaty of Amritsar (1846) was signed (16 March 1846). As far back as 1868 in the book Cashmere Misgovernment, Robert Thorp stated that the people of Kashmir were sold into slavery to [Gulab Singh](#). Arthur Brinkman in his paper "The Wrongs of Cashmere" written in December 1867, also states he: "informs the reader of the wretched condition of a people we sold against their inclination, and their united cry to us." Arthur Brinkman was an Anglican Missionary and the Anglican Missionary Groups had worked with the Anti Slavery Society to push for The Slavery Abolition Act 1833 a few years earlier

